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(c) whether the Government have taken any action on that application, and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Two sets of applications were received, one on 12th March 1954 and the other on 12th June 1954.

" (c) The Government have preferred an appeal against the orders of the Madras High Court granting permission to wind up the Madras Electric Tramways. Action for recovering the money due to the workers will be taken up after the appeal is disposed of."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I enquire whether it was not the attitude of the labour which mainly contributed to the stopping of trams and labour is the worst sufferer for it? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that it is a matter of opinion. Further this does not arise out of the main question."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN RAO :—" May I know whether there has been a stay of proceedings of the tribunal before an appellate court? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN RAO :—" May I know what is the reason for waitinng for the disposal of the appeal in the absence of a stay order? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is a question of recovery. The High Court ordered the winding up of the Madras Electric Tramways. It is now felt that it would not be possible to recover the dues payable to the labourers. Therefore, the Government have preferred a 'Letters Patent' appeal against the order of the High Court to wind up the Madras Electric Tramways. Further, the Commissioner of Labour is not able to verify the claims of the workers. He has suggested that the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, which has given the award, may be asked to determine the exact amount due to the ex-tramway workers and that the amount so fixed may be recovered under the provisions of the Act. But, Sir, in another case, the High Court has held that reference to a tribunal for elucidation or clarification of the provisions of the award of the tribunal is *ultra vires*. The Government have preferred another 'Letters Patent' appeal against this order of the High Court. The Government have to wait for decisions on these two appeals before they can take further action."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN RAO :—" Is it meant then that the application by the workers did not contain the amounts due to them? " 3-20 p.m.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKKTAVATSALAM :—" The Commissioner of Labour feels that he is not able to determine or verify the claims of workers."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" When this is the case about moneys due to workers, what about the money due to the Government of Madras? What action has been taken to recover the same? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is a different question. Government feel that they will not be able to receiver the moneys due to workers unless the judgment of the High Court is reversed. The position will be worse even with reference to Government."

Enquiry into the causes for dead fish in the Bhavani River.

*177 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether on or about the 25th December 1954 and for some days thereafter a large number of dead fish was found floating in the Bhavani river in Mettupalayam reaches;

(*b*) whether the fish in the town water-storage tank were also found to die, when the Bhavani water was pumped into it; and

(*c*) what action has been taken to find out the cause for the same, when, by whom and with what result?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The Government have no information.

" (*c*) As soon as a report regarding the death of fish was received the staff of the Fisheries Department at Bhavanisagar conducted necessary investigation to find out the causes. It was found that the death of fish was not due to abnormal condition or adverse biological factors. It was found it was due to the poisoning of waters with bark and dynamites in the upper reaches of the rivers in Western Ghats. The staff of the Fisheries Department have been instructed to have a closer supervision for enforcing strict conservancy measures against such poisoning and pollution."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Did this give rise to an epidemic of gastro-intestinal disorder in the locality? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I want notice, Sir."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" What about the fish? Were they thrown away or eaten up? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I hope that these dead fish which were dead on account of being poisoned were not eaten up by any persons."